

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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The Little Tin Soldier
inside on page 18.



The Water Babies

Tom, the brave little chimney sweep, becomes a water baby and after a long search he finds the home of the water babies under the sea. Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did comes to visit them. She gives the other water babies sweets, but Tom only gets a pebble to eat.



1. "You must be done by as you did," said the old lady. "You put stones into the mouths of the sea-anemones to make them think they had caught a good dinner, and that was very naughty." Tom hung down his head and got very red about the ears. "I am very ugly," Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did went on. "I am the ugliest fairy in the world and I shall always be, until people behave as they ought to. Then I shall grow as pretty as my sister, the loveliest fairy in the world. Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by."



2. Later, when it was Sunday, Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by came. She was the sweetest, kindest and most delicious person anyone could wish to see. All the water babies began dancing and clapping their hands at the sight of her. Tom stood staring at them. For the past few days he had been a good boy. He had never frightened one crab or teased the sea-anemones and was really trying to be a well-behaved little water baby.



3. The lovely fairy sat down on a rock and suddenly saw Tom and made all the others stand aside. She took Tom in her arms, kissed him and patted him. Nothing like that had ever happened to Tom in his life before. "Now," said Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by, "will you be a good boy for my sake and tease no more sea animals to please me?"



4. Tom promised and really tried to behave. Every day except on Sunday the ugly fairy, Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did came to give the water babies sweets. Tom had everything he could want—but having nothing to wish for sometimes makes people naughty. After a while this happened to little Tom. He grew so fond of sea sweets that his foolish little head could think of nothing else.

5. He was always longing for more and more. He thought of nothing else but sea bull's-eyes and sea lollipops all day and dreamt of nothing else all night. And you can perhaps guess what happened next. Tom became artful and watched the lady to see where she kept the sweets. He began hiding and sneaking and following her about, pretending to look the other way.



6. At last he found out that she kept the sweets inside a beautiful mother-of-pearl cabinet, hidden away in a deep crack in the rocks. The more he looked at it, the more he longed to go to it. He had not yet learned that it was wrong to be greedy, though when he first found the cabinet he thought of Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did and was a little afraid to open it.



7. But when he opened it and saw all the nice things inside, he thought he would taste only one, which he did. Then he thought he would eat only two and then only three—but soon he began to gobble them down so fast that he did not really taste them. And all the time Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did was watching him. "Ah, you poor little dear," she said, "You are like all the rest."



8. She said it to herself and Tom did not see or hear her. She did not fly at him or question him or frighten him. If she had, she might have tempted him to tell lies and that would have made Tom even worse. But on Sunday the other fairy came—the pretty one who was called Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by. Tom gave a shout of glee and rushed to her at once, wanting to be cuddled.



9. But when he came up, she turned away from him. "I should like to cuddle you, but I cannot," she said. "You are so prickly!" Tom looked at himself. He saw that he was covered all over with prickles. No wonder it had happened. Since eating the sweets, Tom had felt all prickly inside, with naughty tempers, so his body could not help growing prickly, too, on the outside.

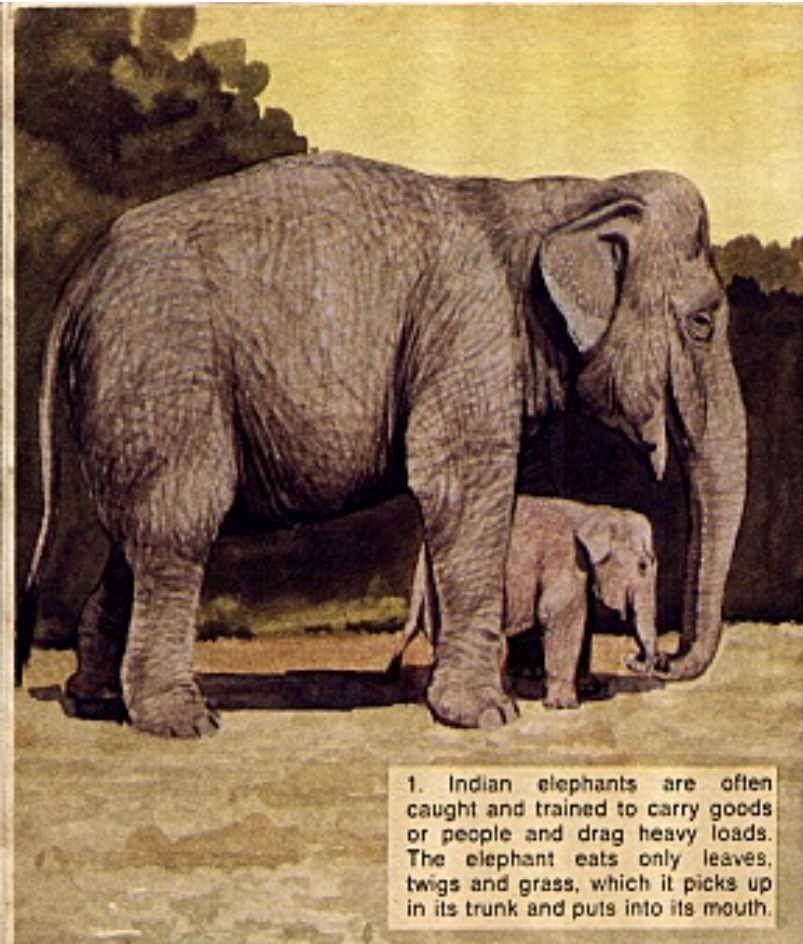


10. Nobody would cuddle him now, or play with him or even look at him. What could Tom do but go away and hide in a corner and cry. He was so miserable that he told the ugly fairy about the sweets. "I forgive you," she told him. "But only you can take the prickles away."

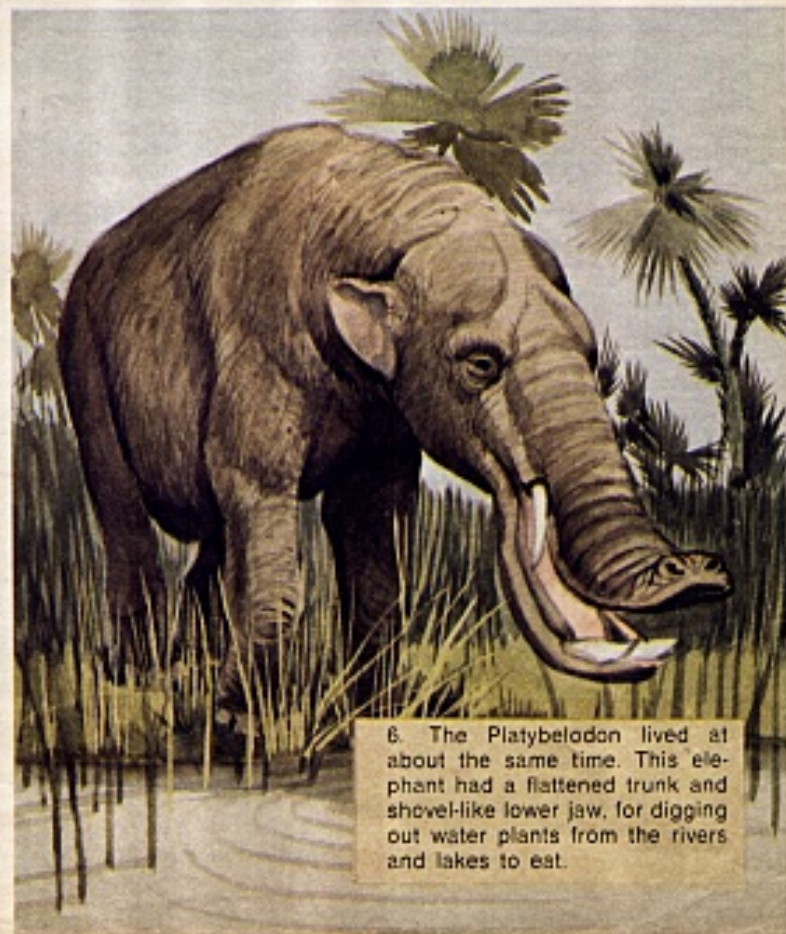


11. "How can I do that?" Tom asked. "You must first do something very good," she answered. "Be kind to someone you don't like." Tom thought for a moment. "I don't like my old master, Mr. Grimes," he said. "But I will be kind to him. Where can I find him?" "At the Other-end-of-Nowhere—a long way away," the ugly fairy answered.

Next week in this wonderful story, Tom sets off to find the Other-end-of-Nowhere.



All Sorts of





3. This is one of the very first elephants. It is called a *Moeritherium* and it lived about 35 million years ago. We know about this old elephant, because its bones have been found in Egypt.



4. This elephant, which is called a *Tetralophodon*, lived about 12 million years ago. It had a long head, but a short trunk. It also had two pairs of small tusks.

the Elephant Family



7. The big Mammoths lived in very cold regions, so they had coats of long, thick hair to keep them warm. Remains of these animals are still to be found in Siberia.



8. This elephant with the very long tusks was quite common in the forests of Europe in the warm periods between the Ice Ages. It is known as *Palaeoloxodon*.



BRER RABBIT

Brer Rabbit and the Slippery Slide, by Barbara Hayes.

ONCE upon a time in the land where Brer Rabbit lived, it was mighty cold. Mighty cold indeed. It was so cold that Brer Rabbit's whiskers were frozen stiff most of the time. And he was afraid to tweak at them in case they fell off—that he was.

Well one morning, when Brer Rabbit had to go to market to do some shopping, he went out of his front gate to discover that his little baby rabbits were having some mighty fine fun.

That they were.

They had made a big slide all along the road and they were having a grand old time sliding right from one end of it to the other.

Pitter-patter! Pitter-patter! they went as they ran along the road — and then WHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE — as they slid all

along the long, long slide.

"Now, little rabs," said Brer Rabbit, "I know that is fun, but it is a bit dangerous. Suppose someone, who didn't know the slide was there, came running along the road, they might fall over and give themselves a nasty bang."

"Oh dear!" said the little baby rabs. "We are sorry!"

But they went on playing on the slide just the same—as soon as Brer Rabbit was out of sight.

Anyway, Brer Rabbit trotted to market and did his little bit of shopping and put it in his pocket and set off home again.

On his way home, who should Brer Rabbit fall in with, but Brer Fox.

Now Brer Rabbit wasn't a tiny bit pleased about that, I can tell you, not the tiniest bit.

And do you know why Brer Rabbit wasn't pleased?

I expect you do.

It was because Brer Fox was far too fond of rabbit stew.

Brer Fox thought that rabbit stew was yummy-yumkins and whenever he saw Brer Rabbit, he tried to think of a way of getting him into a stewpot.

So along the road together walked the two animals, saying polite things like:

"Howdy!"

"How is your good lady wife today?"

"Mighty fine weather we are having for the time of year!"

But all the time Brer Rabbit was making sure he kept just out of reach of Brer Fox's long arms, and at the same time Brer Fox was trying to edge nearer and nearer to Brer Rabbit without his notic-





ing. Which was all very awkward.

Anyway, at last Brer Rabbit said:

"Brer Fox, I think it's best to have things out in the open, don't you?"

And Brer Fox replied:

"I surely do."

"Well, you want to eat me and I surely don't want to be eaten. So let's do this. We will have a race home to my house and if I get there first, I am free, but if you get there first, then you can eat me."

"Done!" said Brer Fox, who fancied himself as a fast runner.

But of course, Brer Fox didn't know what Brer Rabbit knew and what you and I know.

And what was that?

That there was a big slide in the road outside Brer Rabbit's house.

So off set both animals at a fine old

lickety-clip along the road.

And for a while it seemed that Brer Fox was in front.

He started to lick his lips thinking of the fine rabbit stew he would have for dinner.

But while Brer Fox was thinking that, Brer Rabbit was looking out for the glint of the slide on the road.

At last he saw it and with a spurt he dashed on to the slide first and whizzed far ahead of Brer Fox and was at his front gate and safely indoors, before you could say wink.

But Brer Fox, who didn't know the slide was there, stepped on to it awkwardly and slipped head over heels and went a fine old tumble across the road.

By the time he picked himself up, it was far too late to catch Brer Rabbit.

"You see! Making the slide was very useful after all," laughed the baby rabbits.

There will be another Brer Rabbit story for you to enjoy next week.

MORE FUN WITH BRER RABBIT'S JOLLY RIDDLES

1. When a clock strikes 14, what time is it?
2. Which flower most resembles the mouth of an animal?
3. Why is a favourite little dog like a doll?

ANSWERS:

1. Time it was repaired: 2. A cowslip (cow's lip): 3. Because it is a pup-pet.



Well, Fancy That!



1. **Are chickens lucky?** The ancient Romans were very keen on finding signs of good luck and bad luck. One Roman general, who wanted to know if he was going to be lucky, had food put before a chicken. If it ate greedily, his luck would be good. If it refused, his luck would be bad. The chicken refused to eat, so the angry general threw it into the sea, saying, "Let it drink if it won't eat." He was defeated in battle, and the Romans said it was because he had no respect for the chicken.

2. **A monster pig.** The largest pig ever known was one on a farm in Cheshire in 1774. It was nearly ten feet long and five feet tall, weighing 1,410 pounds. What a giant!



3. **Talking to an egg.** This girl is talking to an egg and it is answering her back. She is making clucking noises and the chick inside is cheeping in reply. Later, when the chick hatches out it will follow the girl when she clucks at it, thinking that she is its mother.

The Shy Little Field Mouse

1. The little field mouse is only about three and a half inches long. It is not often seen, because besides being small, it is also shy. It hides away and sleeps in the daytime and only comes out at night. Its fur is brown, just the right colour, for it helps the mouse to hide in hedges or bushes.



2. The field mouse is always busy, scurrying to and fro, looking for food. It can run fast, but when in a hurry it often jumps along on its hind legs, like a kangaroo. It can climb well, too, often climbing high among the bushes to look for nuts, seeds and berries to eat.



3. If the field mouse happens to find a well-stocked garden, it has a grand feast on the fruit and bulbs. Its bright, beady little eyes are really very short-sighted, but its ears are large and catch the slightest sound. All the time, it sniffs the air, to see if it can scent danger.



4. In a tunnel, which it digs under the ground, the mouse makes itself a warm, cosy little nest of moss and leaves. The mouse is very good at digging and when it is tucked away inside its nest it is warm and safe and hidden from enemies. It makes itself a front door and a back door, so there are two ways out.



5. Several field mice often live together in one underground home, for they are friendly creatures. But just before the babies are born, the mother drives out the males and has the nest to herself.



6. In Autumn, the field mouse sometimes goes looking for shelter in a house. If it can creep in and stay undisturbed, it will spend the Winter under the floorboards or in an unused cupboard. If not, it carries little stores of food, nuts and seeds and berries, to its underground home and stays there snug and warm in its bed of moss until Spring comes.

BASIL REYNOLDS

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 16 and try to answer the questions about it.

The Joy of a Mother

THIS delightful picture was painted years ago by Gaetano Chierici. As you look at the lovely colours, the figures and the expressions on the faces, could you make up a story about it? The title the artist gave to the picture is "The Joy of a Mother", so let us begin by saying something about her.

She is not very rich. You can tell that by her clothes and the furniture in the room. She is a peasant, the wife of a farm-worker who is at that moment away at his job. Although she has two young children to look after the peasant woman is performing another very important task at the same time.

Can you see what she is doing?

She is spinning tufts of wool into a long thread, which she is winding on to a bobbin. But you will notice that her eyes are not on her work, because she is so used to it that she could really do it blindfolded. Her right hand twists the wool and her left hand pulls it away in a long strand. But her eyes are on the baby lying on a pillow on the floor.

By putting the baby on the floor she can keep both her hands free for the job she is doing. Can you see the happy smile on her face? She is laughing at the antics of the baby, which is chuckling and gurgling because its sister is keeping it amused.

We do not know the names of the two children, but we can be sure of one thing—that they are both very happy and are a great joy to their mother.

YOUR EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Boys and Girls,

How do you like the new story of The Little Tin Soldier, which starts this week? I think the artist has drawn some lovely pictures, don't you? I am sure that you are going to enjoy it during the next few weeks, so be wise and place a regular order for Once Upon A Time with your newsagent. It's the best way to avoid being disappointed.

Your Friend, The Editor.

ARE YOU MISSING SOME COPIES OF "ONCE UPON A TIME"

If you are, and would like the back numbers to complete your collection, the address to write to is: City Magazines, Aldwych House, 81, Aldwych, London, W.C.1. The cost is 1/8d. each, including postage.





The Golden Cockerel



1. Long ago, in the garden of a king's palace, there lived a beautiful golden cockerel. No one knew how he had got there, but legend had it that he had come, long ago, from an egg of pure gold and crowed only in times of danger for the kingdom.



2. The king had a son and a daughter, Prince Mark and Princess Gay. The Princess loved beautiful things. "The hen that laid that golden egg must be enchanted," she thought to herself. "If I could find her, she might lay a golden egg every day for me."



3. One day, the Princess found a tiny house in the palace grounds. Inside she found a girl called Velia. On a shelf was a broken egg-shell of gold. "The golden egg," cried the Princess.



4. "Yes, I, like my mother before me, am the keeper of the hen that laid it," said Velia, and showed the Princess a little brown hen. "Oh, what a wretched-looking creature," cried the Princess.



5. In a flash, the little brown hen had changed into a beautiful fairy. She looked very angry. "For your rudeness," she said, "I shall no longer protect your father's kingdom. In future, the golden cockerel will not crow to warn you in times of danger." Velia was alarmed and most upset by the fairy's harsh words.



6. Velia ran as fast as she could to the palace and the first person she saw when she arrived was the young Prince. "Oh, come quickly," she cried, breathlessly. "Fetch the Princess away from my house and perhaps then I can persuade the fairy to change her mind." "What fairy?" asked the Prince in amazement.



7. Velia told him what had happened and he hurried with her to her house and sternly ordered his sister to return to the palace. Then he apologized in a very charming way to the fairy and she was so impressed by his sincerity that she took back her threat.



8. The fairy changed back into a little brown hen. Then the Prince turned to Velia. "Madam, you are the most beautiful lady I have ever seen," he said. The little brown hen clucked contentedly, for she knew the Prince would soon marry Velia. She had planned it.



BEAUTIFUL PICTURES

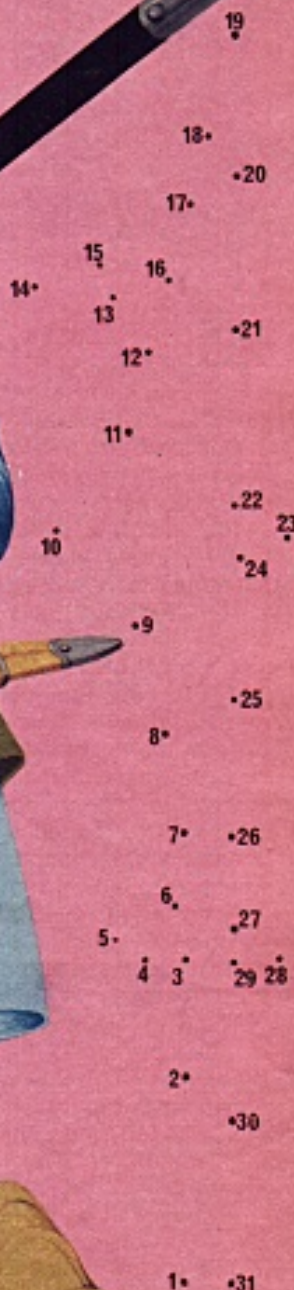
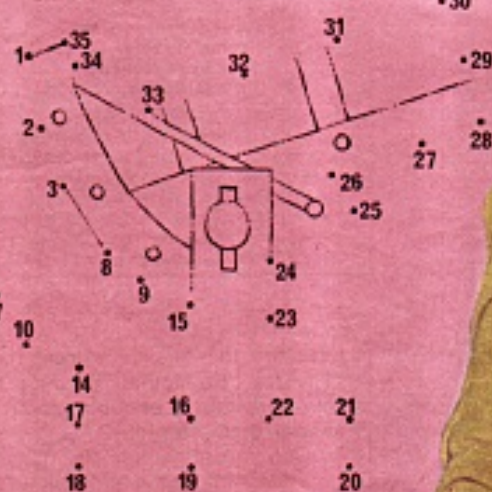
This week, the Once Upon A Time beautiful picture for you to cut out and add to your collection is not a famous painting. As you can see, it is a very attractive colour photograph of two girls, named Cindy Harris and Susan Stuart, with their collie dog friend. They are keeping warm in front of a big fire and you will notice that the collie has its mouth open and tongue hanging out. Dogs are not able to perspire through their skins like human beings (which helps to keep us cool) but when they are too warm they put out their tongues and pant to cool themselves.

A French Soldier

This is a French soldier fighting on the side of Joan of Arc in 1430.

Join the dots of the puzzles below from 1 to 28, and 1 to 35. You will first draw a soldier wearing another kind of helmet, and a cannon of the type that was then coming into use.

Join the dots of the puzzle on the right from 1 to 31 to draw the "weapon" end of the soldier's halberd.





The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

The mysterious highwayman . . . by Barbara Hayes.

PLOP! EEEEEK! PITTER-PATTER! PITTER-PATTER! Chuckle-chuckle-chuckle! I expect you are wondering what that was all about, aren't you?

Well it was the noises that were made when the mysterious highwayman went out on a raid.

The "plop" was the noise of the snowball he threw at the poor mouse who happened to be passing by.

The "EEEEEEK" was the sound of the mouse screaming.

The "PITTER-PATTER! PITTER-PATTER" was the noise of the mouse running away.

And the "chuckle-chuckle-chuckle!" was the highwayman laughing, as he picked up the shopping that the poor mouse had dropped.

All this was happening in the village where Winifred the country mouse lived.

A mysterious mouse dressed as a highwayman was waiting for a lonely mouse, carrying some shopping, to walk up a quiet road.

Then the highwayman threw snowballs at the mouse and when it ran away in fright, the highwayman picked up the shopping the mouse had dropped.

It was all very annoying and rather frightening for timid little mice like Winifred.

And as well as that, it was against the law.

The village policeman did his best to try to catch the highwayman, but of course, whenever the policeman was around, the highwayman kept well out of the way.

In the end it was little Winifred and her boy-friend, Bertie, who caught the thief.

This is how they did it.

Winifred said to Bertie:

"You know, our Bertie, it isn't right the way that highwayman is frightening everyone in the village. And as well as that, I've a sneaky feeling I know who it is. We must do something to catch him."

And Bertie replied:

"Well, he may be a bold bad highwayman, but he doesn't frighten me! And I have a good idea who he is as well."

Have you any idea who he was?

When I tell you that he kept knocking things over everywhere he went and that he always seemed to break and drop the shopping that he stole, I'm sure you might guess.

Anyway, one day Winifred put on her warm clothes and did some shopping. She bought lots of things that she knew little Rex the Wrecker was fond of eating.

Can you guess why she did that?

It was because she thought Rex the Wrecker might be the highwayman.

Then Winifred walked alone up a quiet road.

But she wasn't really alone, because creeping along the side of the road on quiet snowshoes was big strong Bertie, who could deal with any trouble that came along.

And sure enough, hiding behind one of the trees was the highwayman.

"Ah ha! Here is Winifred with some of my favourite food," he chuckled. "I will soon scare her off and get some of that food for myself."

And the highwayman was all ready to throw a snowball, when—CLUMP!

Bertie came up and grabbed him.

Bertie pulled off the mask and sure enough—there underneath all the highwayman's clothes was naughty little Rex the Wrecker.

Winifred came running up.

"You bad boy, Rexie!" she said. "Why ever did you do it?"

"It's because nobody understands me," sobbed Rexie, which was a fib, because he had done it to get the shopping without having to pay for it.

"I understand you!" grunted Bertie.

"And now I'll tell you something that you can understand. If you ever try to do this sort of thing again, I'll dust the seat of your trousers with my hand."

That was another way of saying Rexie would get a good spanking.

"Oh, I'll never do this again," gasped Rexie.

And he never did.

And all the villagers were very grateful to Bertie and Winifred and they gave Winifred a present of a knitted tea-cosy and Bertie some warm bedsocks.

How nice.

There will be another mouse story in *Once Upon A Time* next week.

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Here are the questions from the story "The Joy of a Mother" on page 10. Can you remember enough about it to answer them correctly?

1. Can you remember the name of the artist who painted the picture?
2. How was the peasant woman's husband employed?
3. What is the woman spinning into thread?
4. She winds the thread on to something. What it is called?



The Tin Soldier

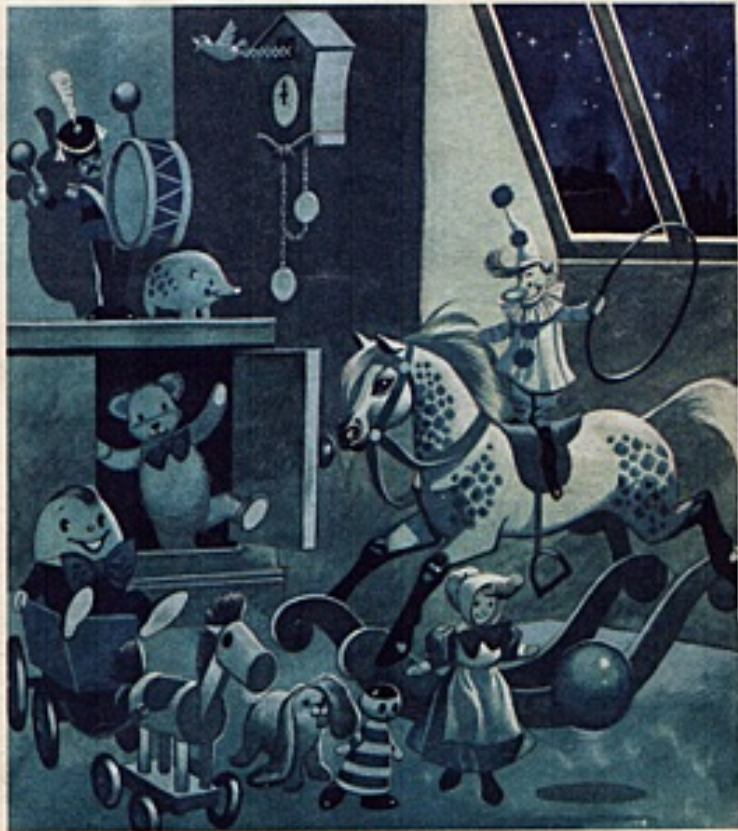


1. Once there were twenty-five tin soldiers. They had all been made out of one tin spoon and they were all exactly the same except one. There had not been enough tin to finish him and he had only one leg, but he stood straight and proud for all that. The soldiers were given to a little boy for his birthday, and he was delighted. He took them out of the box and stood them on the table.

2. There was a splendid cardboard castle on the table and in the open doorway stood a pretty little lady. She held her arms above her head and had one leg raised so high that the tin soldier could not see it, for she was a dancer. But the tin soldier thought she had only one leg, like himself. "She would make the most perfect wife in the world for me," he said to himself.



3. "She lives in a castle, so she must be a nobleman's daughter, while I only have a box which twenty-five of us share," he sighed. "That is no place for her. Still, I must try to get to know her." He hid behind a box and watched the dancing lady.



4. When night came and the people were in bed and the house was dark, the toys came out to play. They danced and chattered and enjoyed themselves. Only the tin soldier and the little dancer did not stir from their places. Then the clock struck twelve.



5. The lid of the box beside the tin soldier flew open. Out popped a Jack-in-the-box in the shape of a little goblin. He saw the tin soldier looking at the dancer. "Keep your eyes to yourself," he said, but the tin soldier pretended not to hear. "All right, wait and see what will happen to you tomorrow," said the goblin.



6. Next morning, when the people of the house got up, the little boy came to play with his new soldiers again. He picked up the tin soldier and put him on the window-ledge, where he stood just as straight and proud as if he had two legs, in his bright uniform, with his musket held upright over his shoulder.



7. As he stood on the window-ledge, the tin soldier continued to gaze at the little dancer. Then the window was opened. It was a cold and windy day and nobody knew what was the cause, whether it was a sudden gust of wind or whether it was the spell cast by the little goblin, but the tin soldier fell through the window.

8. Down, down fell the little tin soldier, before the boy had a chance to put out a hand to catch him. It was a terrible fall, for he went head-first down three storeys and he was quite dizzy when he reached the pavement below. As he landed, the fall on the hard ground knocked the breath out of him.

See what happens to the Tin Soldier in *Once Upon a Time* next week.



The WISE OLD OWL

Knows all the answers

The Wise Old Owl is here to answer your many questions.



1. How big is Liechtenstein?

"Although it has only about 60 square miles of territory and about 15,000 people, Liechtenstein is an independent state, ruled over by a prince. It lies between Austria and Switzerland. Swiss money is used and the Swiss people look after its postal and telegraph systems and also manage its foreign affairs. The people speak German."



2. How did America get its name?

"Amerigo Vespucci, who was born in 1451, was an Italian who began his career as a merchant. He made several voyages to the New World, soon after it was discovered by Columbus. He spoke of these travels and the New World was called America after him."



3. What is the world's highest extinct volcano?

"Mount Aconcagua, which is on the Argentine side of the Andes range of mountains, is the highest extinct volcano. This mountain is 22,834 feet high. It was first climbed in 1897. There are also a number of active volcanoes in the Andes mountains."



4. Which place in the world has the most fog?

"Almost certainly the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, where cold and warm currents of water meet, causing fogs for many days."



5. Where are the Kaieteur Falls?

"These falls are on the Potaro River in Guyana. With a sheer drop of 741 feet, they are nearly five times as high as Niagara Falls."